

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
 - 2 sending a first immediate message from a location, wherein the first immediate
 - 3 message comprises a request for information; and
 - 4 receiving a second immediate message, wherein the second instant message
 - 5 comprises a response to the request, wherein the response is dependent on the location.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sending the first immediate message further
 - 2 comprises sending the first immediate message to a user name identified in a buddy list.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the user name identifies a program executing on an
 - 2 instant-messaging server.
- 1 4. A method, comprising:
 - 2 receiving a first instant message from a sender;
 - 3 determining a location of the sender; and
 - 4 sending a second instant message to the sender, wherein contents of the second
 - 5 instant message are dependent on the location of the sender.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - 2 parsing contents of the first instant message to determine a meaning of the
 - 3 contents, wherein the contents of the second instant message are further dependent on the
 - 4 meaning.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
 2 finding information related to the meaning of the contents of the first instant
 3 message; and
 4 building the contents of the second instant message based on the information.

1 7. A server, comprising:
 2 data indicating a location of a mobile device; and
 3 a personal-assistance controller to send information to the mobile device, wherein
 4 the information is based on the location of the mobile device.

1 8. The server of claim 7, wherein the mobile device is connected via a long-lived
 2 connection to the instant-messaging server.

1 9. The server of claim 7, wherein the personal-assistance controller is to send an instant
 2 message to the mobile device, wherein the instant message comprises the information.

1 10. The server of claim 7, further comprising:
 2 a location database comprising the location of the mobile device and the
 3 information, wherein the information is specific to the location.

1 11. The server of claim 7, wherein the personal-assistance controller is further to:
 2 parse a request from the mobile device to determine a meaning of the request, and
 3 determine the information based on the location of the mobile device and the
 4 meaning of the request.

1 12. A mobile device, comprising:

2 a controller to contact a hotspot-access point, send a request for information to a
3 server via the hotspot-access, and receive a response to the request, wherein the response
4 comprises information dependent on a location of the hotspot-access point.

1 13. The mobile device of claim 12, wherein the request and the response are both instant
2 messages.

1 14. The mobile device of claim 12, wherein the request is sent and the response is
2 received over a long-lived connection.

1 15. The mobile device of claim 12, wherein the controller further is to send the request to
2 a user name identified in a buddy list.

1 16. The mobile device of claim 15, wherein the user name identifies a program executing
2 on an instant-messaging server.

1 17. An apparatus, comprising:

2 an instant-messaging server comprising

3 a personal-assistance controller,

4 presence data comprising reachability and location information regarding a
5 plurality of mobile devices, and

6 information regarding services relative to a plurality of hotspot-access
7 points; and

8 wherein one of the plurality of mobile devices comprises:

9 a controller to connect to one of the plurality of hotspot-access points, send
 10 a request to the personal-assistance controller, and receive a response to the
 11 request, wherein the response comprises information dependent on a location of
 12 the one of the plurality of hotspot-access points.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the personal-assistance controller is to determine
 2 the location of the one of the plurality of hotspot-access points via the presence data.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the request and response are both instant
 2 messages.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the instant-messaging server further comprises a
 2 buddy list for a user of the mobile device.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the personal-assistance controller has an
 2 associated entry in the buddy list.

1 22. A signal-bearing media comprising instructions, wherein the instructions when read
 2 and executed by a processor comprise:

3 receiving a first instant message;

4 determining a location of a sender of the first instant message; and

5 sending a second instant message to the sender, wherein contents of the second
 6 instant message are dependent on the location of the sender.

1 23. The signal-bearing media of claim 22, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 parsing contents of the first instant message to determine a meaning of the
3 contents, wherein the contents of the second instant message are further dependent on the
4 meaning.

1 24. The signal-bearing media of claim 22, wherein the instructions further comprise:
2 finding information related to the meaning of the contents of the first instant
3 message; and
4 building the contents of the second instant message based on the information.

1 25. The signal-bearing media of claim 22, wherein the location of the sender comprises a
2 location of a hotspot access point.